

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 141900 ACTION EC BRUSSELS MADRID INFO BONN
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QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, ETEL, EEC

SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: HARMONIZATION AT THE
--- EUROPEAN LEVEL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 2812, B) EC BRUSSELS 3269

1. US TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND CARRIERS AS WELL AS USG TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS WILL BE FOLLOWING CLOSELY EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS TO HARMONIZE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS (CEPT).

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF HARMONIZATION IS VIEWED FAVORABLY,

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PARTICULARLY BY THE CARRIERS. WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE

SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON U.S. EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS BEFORE ADOPTING A DEFINITE POSITION ON THE SPECIFIC EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS. WE WOULD FAVOR GLOBAL RATHER THAN REGIONAL APPROACH TO STANDARDS HARMONIZATION AND ASSUME THAT ANY HARMONIZATION DONE ON A REGIONAL BASIS UNDER CEPT WOULD BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS.

3. US TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE MEANS THAT MAY BE ADOPTED TO CARRY OUT THE COMMISSION'S PARALLEL OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTENING EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATION, MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. WE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THEIR CONCERN AND SHARE THEIR VIEW THAT ANY CEPT-SPONSORED STANDARDS HARMONIZATION SHOULD NOT DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPAIR US EXPORTS.

4. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, EC COMMISSION TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CHIEF, LEON SULLIAN, INDICATED AWARENESS OF US CONCERNS AND SAID THAT EUROPEAN HARMONIZATION WOULD BE DESIGNED TO AVOID ADVERSE EFFECTS ON US INTERESTS.

5. US EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS WOULD LIKE THE US TO BE IN A POSITION TO HAVE AN INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS AND TESTING/CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES. THIS INTEREST LED TO THE US NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (USNC-IEC) TO UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND AT A MEETING IN APRIL THAT THE USG ENCOURAGE EUROPEANS TO WORK TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT IN STANDARDS-MAKING WITH SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION, THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION. THEY ALSO URGED THE US TO SEEK OFFICIAL OBSERVER STATUS IN THE CEPT AND RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF A STANDARDS CODE WITHIN THE GATT.

6. FYI: GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS CONSIDER IT PREMATURE TO APPROACH CEPT REGARDING OBSERVER STATUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL WE HAVE STUDIED THE ISSUE FURTHER. END FYI.

7. FOR EC BRUSSELS: MISSION REQUESTED TO CONTINUE REPORTING ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS EC INITIATIVE AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR SPECIFIC STANDARDS. MISSION MAY DRAW UPON PARAS 1-5 IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LOEFF, LEYTON OR OTHER EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS. MORE DETAILED COMMENTS FROM INDUSTRY ON THIS ISSUE BEING POUCHED.

8. FOR MADRID: SPANISH PTT APPARENTLY WAS HOST TO RECENT
BIAENNIAL PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF CEPT IN TORREMOLINOS. EMBASSY
REQUESTED TO DISCUSS MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN
ORDER TO LEARN TO WHAT EXTENT RESOLUTIONS AIMED AT
RESTRUCTURING CEPT (REPORTED REFTEL B, REPEATED TO MADRID)
WERE ACCEPTED. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE EMBASSY MAY
OBTAIN REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS WORK, PARTICULARLY
IN DEVELOPING STANDARDS, WOULD BE USEFUL. IS THERE
A PERMANENT CEPT SECRETARIAT OR OFFICIAL TO WHOM INQUIRIES
AND COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT BE ADDRESSED? KISSINGER

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